

PUGET SOUND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

June 17, 2013 | Day 6 of the second special legislative session

This Legislative Update highlights the issues impacting our region's work to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound. Previous editions are available online at www.psp.wa.gov.

Another special legislative session, July 1 budget deadline

Gov. Inslee called a another special session after the first one ended on June 11. Time is of the essence. 14 days remain in the current two-year budget cycle. This means the Legislature must agree to a budget and have it signed by the Governor by midnight June 30. July 1 is the beginning of fiscal 2013-2015 and if an operating and capital budget is not approved, funding will not be available for state government operations. Consequently, many programs and services would be suspended. This would be extremely disruptive for the millions of Washingtonians who depend on state services.

The House and Senate remain gridlocked over their recently adopted budget proposals. Some legislators are optimistic after the House and Senate had their first significant budget agreement just before midnight last Thursday. Two bills regarding the estate tax and the cleanup of contaminated sites were passed and signed into law. Democrats secured a fully restored estate tax, fixing a court-ordered, crater-sized loophole that protects about \$160 million in estate tax revenue that otherwise would have been lost through refunds. Republicans secured an overhaul of how money is spent cleaning up contaminated sites by reforming the Model Toxics Control Act, ([Senate Bill 5296](#)).

Tomorrow, we will see the latest state revenue forecast which many hope will be positive and help break the budget logjam. Major differences still remain between the House and Senate. State worker's compensation insurance and closing tax loopholes continue to be hot topics.

Preparing for a government shutdown

Contingency plans are being made by state agencies in case lawmakers are unable to reach a budget agreement. Partnership staff is preparing to provide notice required for contract suspension due to insufficient funds. If a budget is not passed, contract suspensions would take place July 1. In addition, our office would be temporarily closed.

We urge legislators to finish their work and continue supporting the regionally adopted Puget Sound budget priorities—which continue to fare relatively well in the budget, all things considered.

2013 SESSION AT A GLANCE

Information:

- For up-to-date legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov
- To watch or listen to a legislative hearing, visit: www.tvw.org
- For both current and previous copies of the Legislative Update, visit: www.psp.wa.gov

Communication and Coordination:

If you are planning to testify on a bill, meet with legislators, or would like assistance with state legislative issues regarding Puget Sound priorities—please contact:

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Cuts to Puget Sound State funding would impact the region's federal funds

To be eligible for federal funding for Puget Sound recovery, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires Washington State to develop and maintain a federally approved Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan—the Action Agenda. The Puget Sound Partnership is independently charged with developing, updating and providing accountability for implementation of the Action Agenda. Cuts to the Partnership's budget and programs in other agencies would impact federal funding for the entire region.

The State's roughly \$2.5 million annual investment in the Partnership serves as part of the match requirements for EPA's funding awards and helps to leverage and secure additional federal funds for our partners. Since the Action Agenda's adoption in 2009, EPA has allocated more than \$160 million to Puget Sound cities, counties, non-profits, tribes, and State and federal agencies to implement the Puget Sound recovery plan. \$17 million is proposed in the President's budget for 2014.

We must continue moving forward by investing in our region's priorities for Puget Sound and ensuring accountability for results. *Read EPA's letter about the importance of state funding for Puget Sound recovery:* http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/legislative/2013/letters/NEP_CCMP_IAW_PSP.pdf

Puget Sound Support Strengthened by Federal Caucus

Congressional leaders Denny Heck and Derek Kilmer recently launched a new caucus to advance Puget Sound priorities. They have stepped up as Puget Sound protectors by co-founding the Congressional Puget Sound Recovery Caucus, which is devoted exclusively to promoting Puget Sound cleanup efforts. The caucus will focus on promoting the three recovery priorities identified in the Puget Sound Action Agenda: preventing pollution from urban stormwater runoff, protecting and restoring habitat, and restoring and re-opening shellfish beds. Reps. Jim McDermott, Adam Smith, Rick Larsen and Suzan DelBene have signed up as charter members.

For more information: <http://kilmer.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/heck-and-kilmer-announce-launch-of-congressional-puget-sound-recovery>

Sen. Mike Carrell Passes, Rep. O'Ban Appointed to Fill Vacancy

On May 29, long-time State Senator Mike Carrell passed away from complications of treatment for pre-leukemia. Sen. Carrell's passing left the Senate in a tie between Republicans and Democrats. The Pierce County Council acted quickly to appoint Rep. Steve O'Ban to fill the vacancy. O'Ban has been sworn into office and will serve out the remainder of the term.

Gov. Inslee signs Puget Sound Priority Bills into Law

Thanks to the collaborative work of all our partners, Gov. Inslee signed into law all of the Puget Sound priority bills. Most recently, partners celebrated final adoption legislation that prevents aquatic invasive species ([Senate Bill 5702](#)), protects Washington waters from the effects of ocean acidification ([Senate Bill 5603](#)), and increases accountability and helping prevent vessels from becoming derelict or abandoned ([House Bill 1245](#)).

SUMMARY OF PUGET SOUND LEGISLATION ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATURE



Celebrating with Governor Inslee as he signs legislation into law that strengthens the management of our coastal resources and protects Washington waters from the effects of ocean acidification. (Senate bill 5603)

SHELLFISH

Greenhouse gas emission - Gov. Inslee's request legislation, [Senate Bill 5802](#), sponsored by Sen. Ranker, develops recommendations to achieve the state's greenhouse gas emissions limits.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5802-S2.E%20SBR%20FBR%2013.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5802-S2.PL.pdf>

Coastal Marine Advisory Council: Sen. Hatfield's legislation, [Senate Bill 5603](#), establishes the Washington coastal marine advisory council and the Washington marine resources advisory council. The coastal council will serve as a forum on coastal issues such as fisheries, shellfish aquaculture, and ocean energy. The marine council will advance the recommendations from the ocean acidification report.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5603.E%20SBR%20FBR%2013.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5603.PL.pdf>

HABITAT

Landowner liability: Rep. Stanford's legislation, [House Bill 1194](#), limits landowner liability for habitat projects.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/1194%20HBR%20PL%2013.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1194.PL.pdf>

Conservation easements: Rep. Sawyer's legislation, [House Bill 1277](#), allows tribes to hold conservation easements.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/1277%20HBR%20PL%2013.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1277.PL.pdf>

Aquatic invasive species: Sen. Honeyford's legislation, [Senate Bill 5702](#), makes it illegal to transport recreational or commercial watercraft into the state without meeting certain invasive species documentation requirements. It also repeals the Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5702-S%20SBR%20FBR%2013.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5702-S.PL.pdf>

Environmental planning - Rep. Fitzgibbon's legislation, [House Bill 1717](#), incentivizes up-front environmental planning, review, and infrastructure construction action.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/1717-S.E%20HBR%20PL%2013.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1717-S.PL.pdf>

TOXICS

Derelict vessels: Rep. Hansen's legislation, [House Bill 1245](#), adopts policies to prevent and better manage derelict vessels, and creates a study group to analyze and propose improvements to marine policies regarding derelict vessels. We appreciate the Washington State Legislature, Department of Natural Resources and many other partner organizations for passing this important legislation to Attention remains on the budget proposals, which includes \$2 million in the Operating Budget for the derelict vessel program and \$10 million in the Capital Budget to expedite removal of the more than 230 older, larger, more expensive ships that threaten the health of Puget Sound.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/1245-S.E%20HBR%20PL%2013.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1245-S.PL.pdf>

Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA): Sen. Ericksen's legislation, [Senate Bill 5296](#) reorganizes and reprioritizes state MTCA accounts with the intent of using funds more effectively, creating jobs, and making it more difficult to sweep funds away from cleanup and prevention projects. The bill includes language from Sen. Ranker's brownfields legislation, Senate Bill 5201.

- Bill Report: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill Reports/Senate/5296-S2.E2 SBR FBR 13 E2.pdf>
- Bill as Passed: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/Senate Passed Legislature/5296-S2.PL.pdf>